

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

CHARLES COURT. M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

KIRKHAM :

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1915.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitation of the District under your jurisdiction.

AREA.—According to the Census Report the area of the district is 38,768 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population, as enumerated at the Census, April, 1911, was 11,577, and the number of inhabited houses then was 2,420, with an average of 4·7 persons per house. I estimate the population for the purpose of this Report at 12,240. During the year 1914 the excess of births over deaths was 124, distributed as follows ;—Fleetwood Sub-District, 16 ; Blackpool Sub-District, 36 ; and Kirkham Sub-District, 72.

In 1914 27 new houses were erected—7 in the Fleetwood Sub-district, 5 in the Blackpool Sub-District, and 15 in the Kirkham Sub-District.

The population as given above is exclusive of the inmates of the Fylde Union Workhouse, numbering about 264,

SECTION I.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—Two hundred and sixty-nine births were registered in the rural district, but of these 19—males 10, females 9—took place within the Union Workhouse, and are excluded from the district statistics, as the mothers did not belong to this area. The nett births belonging to this district, and on which the rate is calculated, were 250—males 124, females 126—and these correspond to a rate of 20·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a rate which, with the exception of the years 1912 and 1913, is below any recorded for the district. Last year the rate was 20·3, 18·8 in 1912, 23·1 in 1911, 24·9 in 1910, 24·3 in 1909, and an average of 23·5 for the decennial period, 1904-13. As pointed out last year, until recent years the birth-rate of the district included the births which took place amongst “non-residents,” but now that the system of “transfers” has been initiated the births and deaths of non-residents are not included in the rates of this district. The illegitimate births in the district numbered 9 (males 3, females 6), and in the Workhouse 16 (males 8, females 8).

The distribution of the nett births is shown below :—

Sub-District				Males				Females				Total
Fleetwood	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	33
Blackpool	...	...	...	34	...	...	...	32	...	...	...	66
Kirkham	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	75	...	...	...	151
				<hr/>						<hr/>		
				124			126			250		
				<hr/>						<hr/>		

The Sub-District of Lytham has now been absorbed by the Blackpool Sub-District.

MORTALITY.

DEATHS.—The total deaths registered in the district during the year under review numbered 198, but this requires correction by the exclusion of 78 deaths of persons who died

here, but whose usual place of abode was elsewhere, and by the inclusion of 6 deaths of persons belonging to this area who succumbed outside the district. The deaths known as "inward" and "outward" transfers are distributed by the County Council Health Department to their proper districts. The 78 "outward" transfer deaths occurred as follows:—64 in the Union Workhouse, 11 in the Moss Side Fever Hospital, and 3 in various parts of the district. The nett deaths actually belonging to the district were 126 (males 67, females 59), and these give a death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 10·2, against 11·9 last year, 10·7 in 1912, 12·0 in 1911, 12·4 in 1910, 13·7 in 1909, and an average of 12·2 for the decade 1904-13. The rate for the year under report is the lowest on record.

The table below shows the number of deaths of each sex in the three registration areas:—

Sub-District				Males				Females				Total
Fleetwood	...	...	...	11	...	6	...	17				
Blackpool	...	...	...	18	...	12	...	30				
Kirkham	...	...	...	38	...	41	...	79				
				67				59				126

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

UNION WORKHOUSE.—Sixty-four deaths took place in this Institution, all belonging to outside districts, viz. :—

Blackpool (C.B.)	...	...	..	...	...	...	41
Fleetwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Kirkham	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
St. Annes-on-the-Sea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poulton-le-Fylde	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lytham	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bolton (C.B.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL, MOSS SIDE.--The deaths in the Hospital numbered 13, two amongst residents of the rural district, and 11 from other areas, viz. :—

Lytham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Kirkham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poulton-le-Fylde	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Tables I., III. and IV. appended give full details of the deaths and death-rates, the last two analysing the causes of death at various age periods.

The tabulated statement below shows the number of fatalities in each township, with the death-rate per 1,000 of the population :—

Sub-District	Township	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 per annum
FLEETWOOD	Carleton	9	9.5
	Singleton	5	13.8
	Elswick	1	4.3
	Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	2	10.7
BLACKPOOL	Marton	21	9.3
	Hardhorn, Staining and Newton ..	9	10.0
KIRKHAM ..	Freckleton	21	15.0
	Medlar-with-Wesham	20	8.9
	Bryning-with-Kellamergh	1	6.8
	Clifton-with-Salwick	3	6.6
	Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	5	12.4
	Newton-with-Scales	8	30.5
	Ribby-with-Wrea	7	11.0
	Treales, Roseacre and Wharles	3	6.1
	Warton	7	15.0
	Weeton-with-Preese	2	4.9
	Westby-with-Plumpton	2	4.0

The township death-rates are liable to great fluctuations owing to the small population.

EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.—Only 4 deaths were ascribed to the principal Epidemic Diseases, viz. : Diphtheria, 2 (both in the Hospital); Measles, 1; and Whooping Cough, 1. The epidemic death-rate corresponded to 0.32 per 1,000 of the population, or 0.68 less than the rate of the preceding year (1.0). In 1912 the average was 0.59, 1.46 in 1911, 1.09 in 1910, 1.47 in 1909, and an average of 0.98 for the ten years 1904-13.

PHTHISIS.—Pulmonary Tuberculosis contributed 5 deaths, one more than last year. The death-rate was 0·40 per 1,000, as compared with 0·33 in 1913, 0·42 in 1912, and 0·39 the average of the decennial period 1904-13. Notifications of this disease became compulsory on January 1st, 1912. During the year 12 cases have been notified under Form A, also 3 cases of other forms of Tubercular diseases. One case received Sanatorium treatment, two of the others terminated fatally at their homes, and the others are apparently recovering. On receiving notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis the Inspector visits the house, and makes inquiries as to each case, and instructions are given as to the disposal of infected material, sputum, etc. Disinfection is carried out in all cases where either removal to Sanatorium or death occurs. As to the cases of other forms of Tubercular disease, or non-Pulmonary Phthisis, these have been children between 6 and 12 years of age.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA caused 6 and 8 deaths respectively, a total of 14, corresponding to a death-rate of 1·14 per 1,000, against 0·83 last year, 1·44 in 1912, and 1·55 in 1911.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Twenty deaths occurred amongst children under the age of one year, and these calculated on the registered births gave a rate of 80 per 1,000, which is 10 per 1,000 births less than the average of the preceding ten years. In 1913 the infant death-rate was 77, 90 in 1912, 82 in 1911, 87 in 1910, and 71 in 1909. Of the 20 deaths, 13 occurred under the age of four weeks, Premature Birth, Debility and Congenital Malformations contributed 10 deaths, Convulsions 4, Whooping-Cough, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Bronchitis 1 death each, and other causes 2 deaths.

In the Kirkham Sub-District there were 8 infant deaths, 7 in the Blackpool Sub-District, and 5 in the Fleetwood Sub-District,

The following table compares the birth and death-rates for 1914 with the preceding five years :—

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Birth-rate	20·4 ..	20·3 ..	19·2 ..	23·1 ..	24·9 ..	24·3
Death-rate (corrected) ..	10·2 ..	11·9 ..	10·7 ..	12·0 ..	12·4 ..	13·7
Epidemic Death-rate ..	0·32 ..	1·0 ..	0·59 ..	1·46 ..	1·09 ..	1·47
Phthisis ..	0·40 ..	0·33 ..	0·42 ..	0·34 ..	0·33 ..	0·34
Respiratory ..	1·14 ..	0·83 ..	1·44 ..	1·55 ..	1·33 ..	1·64
Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births	80 ..	77 ..	90 ..	82 ..	87 ..	71

SECTION II.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Sixty-five cases were notified, viz. : Scarlet Fever 44, Enteric Fever 3, Diphtheria 13, Erysipelas 2, Puerperal Septicaemia 3. There were also 15 cases of Tubercular Diseases notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations.

The following Summary shows the number of Notifications in each of the last five years :—

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Scarlet Fever	44 ..	19 ..	19 ..	60 ..	59
Enteric Fever	3 ..	4 ..	3 ..	7 ..	12
Diphtheria	13 ..	12 ..	18 ..	28 ..	20
Erysipelas	2 ..	1 ..	4 ..	8 ..	1
Puerperal Septicaemia ..	3 ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0
Tuberculosis	15 ..	14 ..	8 ..	0 ..	0
	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 92

The following table gives the months and districts in which the Epidemic Diseases occurred, thus showing the prevalence of certain diseases in different districts :—

Jan.—Scarlet Fever—Carleton 1	1
Feb.—Scarlet Fever—Elswick 2	2
Mar. {	Scarlet Fever—Carleton 2	4
	Erysipelas —Wesham 1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Puerperal	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Septicaemia—Warton 1*	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
April {	Diphtheria —Wesham 1	2
	„ —Freckleton 1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
May {	Scarlet Fever —Freckleton 8	11
	„ —Greenhalgh 1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Diphtheria —Wesham 1..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
	„ —Moss Side 1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .

June	{	Scarlet Fever —Freckleton 5	}	8
		„ —Little Eccleston 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aug.	{	Scarlet Fever —Salwick 1	}	8
		Diphtheria —Singleton 3—1*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		„ —Moss Side 1..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		„ —Wesham 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Puerperal Septicaemia—Westby 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sept.	{	„ —Wesham 1	}	8
		Scarlet Fever —Freckleton 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		„ —Marton 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Diphtheria —Singleton 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		„ —Ballam 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oct.	{	Scarlet Fever —Marton 4	}	5
		„ —Freckleton 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nov.	{	Scarlet Fever —Marton 4	}	8
		„ —Salwick 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Enteric Fever—Wesham 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec.	{	Scarlet Fever —Marton 1	}	8
		„ —Wesham 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Diphtheria —Marton 2—1*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Enteric Fever—Wesham 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		„ —Moss Side 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Erysipelas —Freckleton 1		

*Those marked with an asterisk terminated fatally.

65

Of the 44 cases of Scarlet Fever, 37 were treated at the Moss Side Hospital, 11 out of 13 Diphtheria cases, 2 out of 3 Enteric Fever cases. Total, 50 out of 65 cases notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

44 cases. 0 deaths.

These, as will be seen from the foregoing table, occurred practically throughout the year, 1 case occurring in January, 2 in February, 2 in March, 9 in May, 8 in June, 1 in August, 6 in September, 5 in October, 7 in November, and 3 in December. As the majority of these cases occurred in Freckleton and Marton, two districts at a considerable distance from each other, it appears as if there were two distinct epidemics, as the Freckleton cases occurred in May, June, September and October; and the Marton cases were in September, October, November and December. At any rate, no communication between the cases of these two districts could be

ascertained, and there have been no cases in the intervening districts. One point I might mention is, that if the notifications were sent to me as soon as possible after diagnosis, it would probably reduce the number of cases, as in one or two instances I have not received the notifications until after the case has been diagnosed several days; then when I send the Sanitary Inspector to disinfect I find that the disease has been in existence for a certain number of days, and probably fresh cases have occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.

13 cases. 2 deaths.

These cases occurred in April, 2; May, 2; August, 5; September, 2; December, 2; and in the following townships:—Wesham, 3 (one in Workhouse); Freckleton, 1; Singleton, 4; Ballam, 1; Marton, 2; and Moss Side Hospital, 2. The first case notified in April was evidently of a very mild type, as when the Inspector made his visit on the day of the notification he found the patient walking about the house.

As to the case in Freckleton, no cause of its origin could be ascertained, but in the following month a case of Scarlet Fever was notified at the same address.

In regard to the Singleton cases, three occurred in one house. On inspection an insanitary condition was found near the house. This was immediately remedied.

As to the cases in Marton, they occurred in the same house, the mother contracting the disease from the child; the latter terminated fatally.

The Moss Side cases occurred in the Isolation Hospital amongst the staff, no doubt contracted in their duties. Strict precautions were taken in all the cases to prevent the spread of the disease, eleven of the cases being treated in the Isolation Hospital,

ENTERIC FEVER.

3 cases. 0 deaths.

These cases occurred, one in November and two in December. The first was a case in Wesham, treated at home. The other two occurred in December ; one had been admitted into the Union Workhouse two days before her admission to the Isolation Hospital, the last case being a child from the Moss Side district. In this case a defective closet and yard allowing saturation were found. These conditions were remedied.

ERYSIPELAS.

2 cases. 0 death.

These cases occurred, one each in March and December. No cause except feeble health and exposure to weather could account for their origin.

PUERPERAL SEPTICAEMIA.

3 cases. 1 death.

These cases occurred, one in March in the township of Warton ; the remaining cases occurred in August in Wesham. The first case terminated fatally. They were all attended by a medical man, assisted in the first case by a handy woman ; the others by proper nurses. These cases were treated at their homes.

SMALL-POX.

No cases have occurred during the year.

VACCINATION.

Since the Vaccination Act of 1907 the exemptions are increasing, as the following statement relating to the Kirkham Registration District will show :—

Year	Births	Successful Vaccinations	Insus- ceptible	Exemp- tions	Died before Vaccination	Post- poned	Removed
1913 ...	127 ...	62 ...	2 ...	38 ...	10 ...	2 ...	13
1914 ...	122 ...	59 ...	1 ...	37 ...	11 ...	2 ...	12

(Jan. to June)

THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. THE PHYSICAL FEATURES and General Character of the District are mostly flat, with slight undulations in certain parts. The subsoil is various, chiefly clay, marl and peat, with a small amount of sand.

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—Chiefly agricultural, with the exception of certain townships, where the inhabitants are mainly occupied in cotton mills. As to any influence of occupations on the people, this is shown by a tendency to premature births ; also a large amount of dyspeptic troubles among the mill workers.

WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This is very good, the number of inmates on December 31st, 1914, being 264.

THE POOR-LAW RELIEF amounted to £249.

THE USE OF HOSPITALS for gratuitous relief are the Royal Infirmary, Preston, and Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, for medical and surgical cases ; and the Moss Side Isolation Hospital for infectious cases. These are pretty fully taken advantage of.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.—The great number of the houses receive their supply from the Fylde Water Board, the water of which is very good. In other districts the houses receive their water supply from wells, and in a few instances by stored roof water. No cases of lead poisoning through water supply have occurred. Some other remarks as to water supply will be made under the heading, " Schools."

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No main rivers pass through your district, and as to pollution of streams, very little takes place.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—During the year under review there has been another extension of sewer made in Carleton. In regard to that portion of Carleton near Bispham Station, mentioned in my 1913 Annual Report, this Sewerage, which was under consideration between you and the Bispham Council, and deferred at that time, I am glad to say that the two Councils have now given orders to their Surveyors to prepare a scheme, and I hope that this matter will soon come to a favourable conclusion. At Marton you have had under consideration the question of sewerage the property in Vicarage Lane, and a scheme has been prepared, and the contract let for the work.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There has been a certain amount of improvement in this matter, viz., 22 old privies being converted into w.c.'s; also 27 new houses have had w.c.'s put in.

SCAVENGING.—This is carried out in Wesham and Freckleton (populous villages) by contract. In other more sparsely populated districts the householders are responsible, as the people having land to deal with the matter themselves, the cost of systematic scavenging would be prohibitive. There is no destructor in your district.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT.—Full particulars as to Inspections will be found in Inspector's Report.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS which can be controlled by bye-laws. There are no lodging-houses, and the only offensive trades are tripe-boiling places, of which there are 2.

SCHOOLS.—There are 19 Schools in your district, containing an average of 1,750 children. School closure took place on three occasions :—

Feb. & March..	Marton Moss School..	On account of	Whooping Cough.
March	Freckleton School ..	„ „	Scarlet Fever.
Sept. & Oct. ..	Warton School ..	„ „	Whooping Cough.

At Marton Moss the attention of the Managers has been drawn to the condition of the playground, and I understand they propose to asphalt it at once.

THE SANITARY CONDITIONS of the Schools are good, and they have been disinfected previously to opening after infectious diseases have been present. All the Schools, with the exception of Treales, are supplied with Fylde water. In this case the water is supplied from a pump at a neighbouring farm. As to the action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, the precautions taken are, first, exclusion of all infected families; then, if this is not sufficient to suppress the complaint, the School is closed for a limited period.

a—FOOD (MILK SUPPLY).—This, taken as a whole, is good. There is no milk imported into the district. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops Orders have been carried out by the County Council, and their officials have notified us of 20 cases of Tuberculosis among cows, 16 cases of Tubercular emaciation, and 4 of Tuberculous udders. Of the above 20, 14 were milk cows. No reports have been received since July.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—The following samples were taken by the County Constabulary in the Fylde Rural District during the year ended December 31st, 1914:—Coffee 1, Spirits 8, Milk 6, and Vinegar 1. No food on inspection was found to be unfit for consumption.

The Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912, apply to the prohibition of preservatives in milk, restriction of preservatives in cream; also of importation of cream containing preservatives.

MILK AND DAIRIES BILL.

The main objects of the Bill are to provide:—

1. The more effective registration of dairies and dairy-men.

2. The inspection of dairies and examination of cows.
3. The prohibition of the supply of milk from a dairy where such milk has caused, or is likely to cause, infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis.
4. The prevention of the sale of tuberculous milk.
5. The regulation of the importation of milk, so as to prevent danger to public health arising therefrom.
6. The issue of regulations for securing the supply of pure and wholesome milk.
7. The establishment by local authorities in populous places of milk depots for the sale of milk specially prepared for infants.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909, AND HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Under Article V. of this Act the Medical Officer shall include in his Annual Report information in tabular form :—

ACTION TAKEN IN 1914.

1. The number of houses inspected under Section 17 of the 1909 Act was...	... ..	371
2. The number of houses considered unfit for human habitation	... ..	3
3. Number of Representations to Authority with a view to having Closing Orders	... ..	3
4. Closing Orders made	... ..	3
5. Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders	... ..	7
6. Number of houses put into a state of human habitation after making Closing Orders	... ..	3

In my last year's report I mentioned that two houses were allowed to stand until new ones were erected in their

stead. The new ones have been built and occupied, and the old ones uninhabited.

The defects found in houses were structural :—

Defective roofs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Damp walls and floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Twenty-seven houses have been erected, all of which have been subject to inspection.

As to the character and sufficiency of the housing for the working classes in the district, taking the district as a whole, the working classes are fairly well housed. In regard to the condition of houses, with a few exceptions in country districts, they may be classified as good. Those in the worst condition will be dealt with in the coming year. Considering the number of new houses and the increase in population, we may consider the ratio as good.

During the year 53 plans have been submitted to the Building Committee ; 41 of these have been approved, and 12 disapproved for the following reasons :—

Outbuildings	...	...	Insufficient air space.
Piggeries	...	...	Insufficient drainage.
Cowshed...	Insufficient water supply & drainage.		
House...	Insufficient height of rooms „		
Stable	...	...	Insufficient drainage, etc.
Streets	...	...	Insufficient width & drainage.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

According to this Act, “The Medical Officer of Health shall, in his Annual Report, report specifically on the administration of this Act in Workshops and Work places, and he shall send a copy of his Annual Report on the subject to the Secretary of State.”

A Register is kept of all Factories and Workshops in the district.

Factories, number inspected	4
Workshops ,,	20
Defects found	Nil.
Defects reported by other Authorities... ..	Nil.

The following is a list of Industries carried out in the Workshops :—

Blacksmiths	16
Joiners	20
Shoemakers	7
Cloggers	3
Bakers and Confectioners	7
Dressmakers	3
	<hr/>
	56

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT.

1. Your district, according to the census return, contains 38,765 acres, but according to the Fylde Council Year Book the area is 40,164 acres. According to this it is rather difficult for an Inspector to keep continual inspection of such an area, especially as every year the amount of work is increasing.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—In your district there are the following institutions :—(1). The Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital ; (2). The Small-pox Hospital at Elswick ; (3). A Sanatorium for Tubercular Diseases at Elswick. In regard to the first, patients are admitted from Fleetwood, Thornton, Cleveleys, Bispham, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lytham, Poulton-le-Fylde, Kirkham and the intervening rural districts. This Hospital is well taken advantage of by all the districts, there being generally considerably over 200 patients treated there in a year. From your district there have been 50 cases admitted out of 65 notified. Of the cases admitted, all

recovered except 2, the result of Diphtheria. The Smallpox Hospital drafts its cases from Preston, Garstang and the Fylde districts. The administration of these Hospitals is carried out by the various Hospital Committees, made up of representatives from the several districts forming the conjoint area.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.—You have adopted the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890.

4. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—There have been six examinations of swabs from Diphtheria, all with negative results. Three samples of drinking water have been submitted to me for analysis. Two were found unwholesome, and one good. The action taken to improve the former was by putting in Fylde water. The Bacteriological Examinations were conducted by Prof. Delepine, Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The disease, Scarlet Fever, occurred in eight different townships—Carleton 3 cases, Elswick 2, Freckleton 18, Greenhalgh 1, Salwick 4, Marton 11, Wesham 2, Little Eccleston 3. In Freckleton, Marton, Salwick, Carleton and Little Eccleston they appeared to be small epidemics, independent of each other, as the townships were at considerable distances from each other, and no connection could be traced. The Freckleton cases were very slight, and on making an examination at the School I found one of the teachers desquamating, evidently the origin of the epidemic.

In regard to Diphtheria, with the exception of the 3 cases at Singleton and 2 at Marton, the remaining 8 cases occurred singly in different townships; so there appeared to be no direct connection between these.

As to action taken, on receipt of a notification a visit is made by the Inspector, and all precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease, such as disinfecting the premises on removal of patient to Hospital; if the case remains at home all care for proper isolation is taken, and the children, if any, are kept from School. Where non-notifiable diseases occur, exclusion from School and isolation as much as possible is obtained. In all cases the schoolrooms are disinfected.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there have been 15 cases notified—12 Pulmonary and 3 of other forms of Tuberculosis. On receipt of a notification the Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector makes a visit, and attempts to find out the cause of the disease and the history, and by means of pamphlets and verbal instructions try to limit the infection. Directly after the copy of the notification has been sent to the County Medical Officer, the Tuberculosis Officer comes, and makes a visit or visits to each case, and consider the condition of affairs, and in some cases get the cases sent to a Sanatorium for treatment. On the occasion of death or removal to a Sanatorium the dwellings are thoroughly disinfected.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

In regard to this I have no comment to make, no deaths from food-poisoning having occurred.

MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

You are not an Authority under the Midwives Act. There were seven registered midwives in the district, but during the year two have retired owing to advancing years, so that there are twelve townships which have no qualified midwife, and the parturient woman in these districts is mainly

dependent on a handy neighbour. These townships are so sparsely populated, and most of them at such distances from each other, that it is scarcely possible for a qualified midwife to make her living.

As to Ophthalmic Neonatorum, instructions have been given to the midwives to take precautions to prevent this disease occurring, and if it occurs to notify at once, these notifications being then sent on by me to the County Council. If no medical man has been in attendance I see to the case myself.

I will now conclude my Report, and on looking over the statistics I think we may be fairly satisfied. The Birth-rate might be improved, as mentioned before. The Death-rate is, in my opinion, very satisfactory; so also is the Epidemic Death-rate. As to the Phthisis Death-rate, more attention is, doubtless, paid to the diagnosis of the several forms of this disease now that notification is compulsory.

I must now thank you for the interest you have all taken in the Sanitary work of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

CHARLES COURT.



TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1914 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	11,550	281	..	24.3	212	18.3	57	4	20	71	159	13.7
1910	11,842	296	..	24.9	223	18.8	79	2	26	87	147	12.4
1911	11,577	299	268	23.1	217	18.7	87	10	22	82	140	12.0
1912	11,768	246	222	18.8	190	16.1	71	7	20	90	126	10.7
1913	11,991	273	244	20.3	216	18.0	80	7	19	77	143	11.9
1914	12,240	269	250 Males .. 124 Females 126	20.4	198	16.1	78	6	20	80	126 Males.. 67 Females 59	10.2

Area of District in acres (land and inland water).....38,768

Total population at all ages.....11,577
 Number of inhabited houses 2,420 } At Census of 1911
 Average number of persons per house .. 4.7 }

TABLE II. --CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								Deaths in Hospital of Patients Removed from this District					
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						Total Cases Re- moved to Hospital						
		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY												
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65			65 & up- wards				
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).....	13	3	5	2	3	..	..	..	4	7	..	11	2	2
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	44	3	36	3	2	..	..	..	8	25	..	7	..	..
Typhus Fever .....	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..
Enteric Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	12	..	2	3	3	3	1	..	3	8	..	1	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS.....	78	8	46	9	11	3	1	..	14	18	46	21	..	2

Isolation Hospital—Fylde Conjoint, at Moss Side.

Sanatorium—Elswick.

TABLE IV.—*INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1914.*

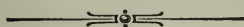
Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified	..	8	3	1	1	13	4	..	2	..	19
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
{	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	4
{	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Congenital Malformations	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{	Premature Birth	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
	Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	..	1	1	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	4
{	Other Causes	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
	TOTALS.....	..	8	3	1	1	13	4	1	2	..	20

Nett Births in the year { legitimate..241
illegitimate 9

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants..19
illegitimate infants 1

FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report and Summary of work done within your District for the year ending December 31st, 1914, this being my Twenty-fifth Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total No. of Preliminary Notices	72
,, Legal Notices by order of Council	5
Special Reports	10
Number of defects rectified	141
New drains put in for waste and refuse water	18
Existing drains opened, cleaned and rectified...	16
Offensive ashpits improved	14
New w.c.'s put in in place of common privies	22
New ashbins provided... ..	15
Nuisance arising from stagnant sewage abated	1
Nuisance caused by sewage on side of highway	3
Sewage tanks made	4
Sewage tanks cleaned... ..	3
Farmyards drained	4
Cellar drains improved	1
Floors improved	2
Backyards improved	17
Defective privies repaired and improved... ..	18
New sewage filter put in	1
Nuisance caused by manure abated	1
Offensive ditch cleaned	1
Number of inspections made	1512

Drains tested with smoke test (old)	...	...	24
„ „ „ (new)	...	...	13
Estimated number of privy closets in District	1856		
„ „ water closets	...	...	577
„ „ waste water closets	...		16
„ „ pail closets	...	...	127

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have, as usual, been fairly well kept, it only having been found necessary in one instance to complain.

BAKEHOUSES.

Well kept.

SEWERS.

During the year there has only been one extension, at Carleton. In the autumn it was found that the sewer at Warton was not in working order, and on examination that the pipes had become blocked with the roots of trees adjoining.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of infectious cases inquired into	...	57
Dwelling-houses disinfected after Scarlet Fever		38
„ „ „ Typhoid	...	1
„ „ „ Diphtheria...		10
„ „ „ Phthisis	...	3
Number of articles of wearing apparel and bedding disinfected	... ..	528
Schools disinfected after infectious disease	...	3

No legal proceedings during the year.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	371
„ „ condemned	...	...	...	3
„ „ improved	...	...	...	3
Number of notices under Section 15	...	...		7
Number of houses improved under Section 15				7

Of the houses examined, 327 were under the annual value of £16, and 44 over £16.

In conclusion, I wish to add a word of thanks to those owners of property who have made sanitary improvements without notices being served, many effecting minor improvements on the same being suggested to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES JOLLY,

Sanitary Inspector.

